SHRI SURESH KALMADI: You don't have patience...

...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): You take BJP also with you..

...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: Madam, the guilty must be punished whether they bring in this modified report or not.

...(*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Are you interested in discussing it or not? Otherwise, I will adjourn the House..

...(*Interruptions*)...

The House is adjourned till 2.30 p.m.

The House then adjourned for lunch at fifty-four minutes past twelve of the clock.

The House reassembled after Lunch at thirty minutes past two of the clock.

The Vice-Chairman (Shri V. Narayanasamy) in the Chair.

RE. ACTION TAKEN REPORT—Contd.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Kindly take your seat. We had enough of ATR in the morning. There are other Zero Hour issues to be taken up in the House. Kindly hear me...(*Interruptions*)..

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम (उत्तर प्रदेश) : वी. सी. शुक्ल को बुलाओ और ए० टी० आर० को पेश करो।...(**व्यवधान**)...

DR. BIPLAB DAS GUPTA: We want Mr. Shukla to come...(*Interruptions*). That was the promise made by the Deputy Chairman. Until he comes and gives his statement we can't have any other discussion...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Let the Minister come and deny the statement...(*Interrupions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): The hon. Minister has come. Kindly take your seat. Now in the morning the discussion was held and the hon. Members raised the issue.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Mr. Vice-Chairman, I was referring to the track record of the Parliamentary Affairs Minister. When I used the word "track record" I am sorry to say that I was stopped in my track. Therefore, kindly allow...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Let us go to the subject, not about the track record. Let us speak about the subject...(*Interruptions*)...You have to make a brief mention. The hon. Minister is there.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: When I was referring to the track record of the Parliamentary Affairs Minister I was only confining myself to the ATR issue. You will kindly recollect, Mr Vice-Chairman, Sir, that during the last Session we reached an agreement as a result of which the Government agreed to place on the Table of the House a revised and modified report. But when the House was adjourned, we were shocked to note that the Parliamentary Affairs Minister made a statement to the Press repeatedly that the Government would submit a supplementary note. It was in complete breach of the agreement we all reached here. After the House adjourned, before the current Session was called, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister and the Finance Minister had talks with the representatives of various parties and in the course of the talks the Government took the view that the Ministers indicated by the JPC could not be proceeded against and the foreign banks could not be proceeded against because, according to the Finance Minister, we are living in an inter-dependent world and no action would be taken against the RBI officials because they are already retired.

It is in this background or track record of the Government that the report which was published today in the *Hindustan Times* gains in credibility and gains in relevance. The Parliamentary Affairs Minister was talking to the Chief Executive some time after 5 O'clock, that was... (*Interruptions*)....

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Mr. Jaipal Reddy, only one word I would like to utter. In this House, the convention is that the hon. Members will not refer to any newspaper item. You are a Senior Member of the House. Normally, it is not done in the House. Kindly confine yourself to the subject. There are several rulings on that. Let us not go by the newspaper report.

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Why not? Each newspaper will give news on the basis of ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Mr. Vice-Chairman, no newspaper report is irrelevant. While no newspaper is sacrosanct, it is perfectly open to the Minister or the concerned person to deny what appears in the Press. But the House cannot ignore what appears in the Press. Now it is perfectly open to Mr. Shukla to confirm or contradict the report, to see whether the report in todays' Hindustan Times is correct or not. Otherwise, there is no point awaiting the so-called revised modified Action Taken Report. Then, there is no option but to confront the Government sraigthaway to take a decision.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Mr. Minister, would you like to respond?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): Sir, first of all, I would like to say that the report that apreared in he Hindustan Times I have seen and it is a totally baseless report and there is no proof in it. Secondly, about the supplementary or modified or the revised report, I would like to read out the agreement that we have made.

The agreement that has been reached between the Opposition and the Government was that the points on which action is not taken, the points on which action is partly taken and the points on which objecions have been raised by the Members of the Opposition shall be reconsidered by the Government and a revised and modified report on those points shall be submitted by the Government to the House as early as possible. We are doing exactly this. The points that have been raised either verbally during the discussion or total have been given to us in writing by the hon. Members and representatives of various parties have been considered by us and all thse are being put in the report that we are going to present to this hon. House and to the other House. We have also said so and I had the privilege of attending the Business Advisory Committee meeting of the Rajya Sabha yesterday and there also I had stressed that it would contain various new materials on actions taken since the last report was made.

I was told that we should submit the report during the weekend so that, over the weekend the hon. Members would read the report. We would try to do that, but I cannot give an assurance whether it could be done or not, because we have to get and include in the report the latest information, as much information as possible and make that report as meaningful as it would be and, therefore, Sir, while it will be our effort to submit it as early as possible as agreed to, I cannot give a date here on which we will do it. My assurance stands, as I have said in the BAC, that we would try and do it and it would certainly be done, in any case, before the 20th.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARYANASAMY): Now, the Leader of the Opposition....(*Interruptions*).

SHRI SIKANDER BAKTH): Sir, in relation to the newspaper report, is the hon. Minister going to take some corrective steps? That is my question number one. Number two, since he has mentioned...(*Interruptions*) ...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): He asks whether you are going to take any corrective steps.... (*Interruptions*)....

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: You have said it, whatever appeared in the Press which we mentioned... (*Interruptions*) ...is incorrect and baseless...

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: After the Committee Report there is an official briefing and this was made. This report which is given is nothing but kite-flying. There is no truth in it.

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: It is a question of privilege and we cannot brush it aside by words alone. If the report which the Minister says is baseless, is the Minister prepared to take any corrective steps? That is question No. 1 and my... (*Interruptions*)...

SYED SIBTEY RAZI: The hon. Minister has specifically denied that the report is baseless.

श्री सुरश पचौरी (मध्य प्रदेश) : जब मंत्री जी ने डिनाई कर दिया है, तो उसके बाद और क्या बचा है।... (**व्यवधान**)... पहले यह बात भी थी कि इस संबंध में मंत्री जी स्पष्टीकरण दें अब व्यक्तव्य दे दिया तो उसके अलावा अब और क्या बचा है। समाचार पत्रों में कई बातें छपती हैं। क्या उन सभी पर विचार किया जायेगा।

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: We would like to seek two clarifications from the Minister... (*Interruptions*)... Why is the Minister mentioning the revised report...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): The matter is closed now.

DR. BIPLAB DOSGUPTA: The agreement made was that the report will be revised.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra): That is being done . (*Interruptions*)...

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: The points on which action has not been taken and also the points on which phone is on action taken even on that the Government would modify and revise the report. That is the agreement. My point is why the Minister keeps on referring to it as the supplementary report as if the other parts of the report are unaffected. This raises a question in our mind whether the actual revision will be done or not. That is one point.

The second point is that we have taken note of the statement which has been made by the Minister and that he is denying. But the way in which he has denied it is a blanket denial. What I am saying is that we must take note of this. He is saying that there is no truth in the statement that no action would be taken. It is their profession to deny....(*Interruptions*)..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): You please take your seat. I am not allowing you... (*Interruptions*)... Nothing will go on record.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA:*

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): The hon Minister has said that as agreed he will come with a revised report. That has been decided earlier. Now we are going to another subject, that is, Zero Hour Submissions.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Sir, I am on a point of order. The next item listed on the List of Business is Cable TV. is it a Zero Hour matter?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): The subject that has been listed is not published there.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Sir, the Zero Hour is in the forenoon and not in the afternoon.

RE. HUNGER STRIKE BY MS. MEDHA PATKAR

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*Not recorded.